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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 6422

Yoshiharu SATO et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2006_0728A

Serial No. 10/579,387 : Group Art Unit 3681

Filed May 15, 2006 :

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____; and/or
- each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

- 1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:
- (1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
- 1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:
after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:
the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and
the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
2. It is hereby certified
- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.
3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - a German Office Action (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

U.S. Patent No. 3,614,998 corresponds to DE 1 780 281.

5. A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.
6. Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

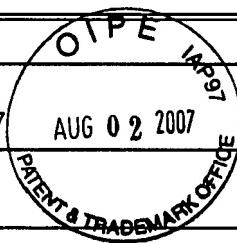
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August 2, 2007

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 2006_0728A	SERIAL NO. 10/579,387
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		APPLICANT Yoshiharu SATO et al.	
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE May 15, 2006	GROUP 3681
Date Submitted to PTO: August 2, 2007			



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	3,614,998	10/1971	Houtz			
	AB	4,441,596	4/1984	Nakahara et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	1 780 281	5/1971	DE			
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED